

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A medical vacuum aspiration device comprising:

- an aspiration cylinder; and
- a valve, the valve comprising:
 - a removable fluid conduit having a first end for attaching to the aspiration cylinder and a second end for attaching to a cannula;
 - a valve housing having at least first and second housing portions that define a cavity for removably holding at least a portion of the fluid conduit;
 - a hinge about which the first housing portion pivots relative to the second housing portion;
 - means for removably attaching the first housing portion to the second housing portion;
 - a removable cap that connects the first and second housing portions; and
 - an actuator, coupled to the valve housing, that selectively compresses a portion of the fluid conduit to open and close a suction path defined by the fluid conduit.

Claim 2 (Original): The medical vacuum aspiration device according to claim 1, wherein the first and second housing portions and the means for removably attaching comprise a single-piece unit.

Claim 3 (Original): The medical vacuum aspiration device according to claim 2, wherein the single-piece unit comprises plastic.

Claim 4 (Original): The medical vacuum aspiration device according to claim 3, wherein the plastic comprises polypropylene.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The medical vacuum aspiration device according to claim 1, wherein the fluid conduit further comprises a receptacle proximate the first end, the receptacle for receiving an end of the aspiration cylinder to provide a sealed connection between the fluid conduit and the aspiration cylinder.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The medical vacuum aspiration device according to claim 5, wherein the fluid conduit and the receptacle comprises an integrally formed conduit component such that the path extends continuously through the fluid conduit.

Claim 7 (Original): The medical vacuum aspiration device according to claim 6, wherein the integrally formed conduit component comprises a resilient material.

Claim 8 (Original): The medical vacuum aspiration device according to claim 7, wherein the resilient material comprises silicone.

Claim 9 (Original): The medical vacuum aspiration device according to claim 1, wherein the first and second housing portions engage the fluid conduit to restrain movement of the fluid conduit relative to the housing.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The medical vacuum aspiration device according to claim 1; wherein the cap connects to the first and second housing portions adjacent the second end of the fluid conduit.

Claim 11 (Original): The medical vacuum aspiration device according to claim 10, wherein a portion of the fluid conduit extends outwardly from an end of the housing and the cap extends over the portion of the fluid conduit.

Claim 12 (Original): The medical vacuum aspiration device according to claim 11, wherein the cap engages the fluid conduit to restrain movement of the fluid conduit relative to the housing.

Claim 13 (Original): The medical vacuum aspiration device according to claim 1, wherein the fluid conduit further comprises a sealing receptacle adapted to cooperate with the aspiration cylinder to provide a fluid seal between the aspiration cylinder and the fluid conduit.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The medical vacuum aspiration device according to claim 13, wherein the sealing receptacle is an integrally formed portion of the fluid conduit.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A medical vacuum aspiration device comprising:
an aspiration cylinder; and
a valve adapted for fluid communication with the aspiration cylinder, the valve including:

first and second housing portions, each including inner and outer walls;

a releasable connector joining the first housing portion to the second housing portion such that the first housing portion and the second housing portion cooperate to define a housing having first and second open ends and a cavity defined by the inner walls and extending between the first and second open ends;

a hinge about which the first housing portion pivots relative to the second housing portion;

a removable cap that connects the first and second housing portions;

a flexible fluid conduit retained in the cavity when the first and second housing portions are joined by the releasable connector, and the fluid conduit exposed for removal from the cavity when the releasable connector is released, wherein the fluid conduit includes a first end for engaging a cannula and a second end for removably engaging the aspiration cylinder [[, the fluid conduit including a flexible conduit portion]]; and

at least one conduit clamp movably mounted on one of the housing portions and engagable with the flexible conduit portion to compress the conduit portion.

Claim 16: Cancelled

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The medical vacuum aspiration device according to claim 15, wherein the hinge comprises a living hinge.

Claim 18 (Original): The medical vacuum aspiration device according to claim 17, wherein the hinge comprises two living hinges integrally formed on the housing portions.

Claim 19 (Original): The medical vacuum aspiration device according to claim 18, wherein each of the living hinges comprises a double living hinge.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The medical vacuum aspiration device according to claim 15, wherein the releasable connector comprises a releasable latch.

Claim 21 (Original): The medical vacuum aspiration device according to claim 20, wherein the releasable latch comprises a latch tab extending from an edge of one of the housing portions and a tab recess in an outer surface of another one of the housing portions, the tab recess releasably receiving the latch tab when the releasable connector joins the housing portions.

Claim 22 (Original): The medical vacuum aspiration device according to claim 21, wherein the latch tab further comprises a dome portion cooperating with the tab recess to define a user interface space.

Claim 23 (Original): The medical vacuum aspiration device according to claim 22, wherein the latch tab and tab recess are integrally formed on a respective one of the housing portions.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The medical vacuum aspiration device according to claim 15, wherein the cap connects to at least one of the first and second ends of the housing.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The medical vacuum aspiration device according to claim 1, wherein the valve is a plastic that can be sterilized.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The medical vacuum aspiration device according to claim 1, wherein the housing comprises polypropylene.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): The medical vacuum aspiration device according to claim 1, wherein the fluid conduit comprises silicone.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): A medical vacuum aspiration device comprising:

an aspiration syringe;

a cannula; and

a valve for controlling suction generated by the aspiration syringe through the cannula, the valve comprising:

a valve housing having a cavity, wherein the housing comprises first and second housing portions;

a hinge about which the first housing portion pivots relative to the second housing portion;

means removably attaching the first housing portion to the second housing portion;

a removable cap that connects the first and second housing portions;

resilient tubing removably held by the valve housing, [[seated within the cavity,]]

the tubing coupled [[in between]] to the aspiration syringe and the cannula; and

an actuator that selectively compresses a portion of the tubing to open and close a suction path between the aspiration syringe and the cannula.